

# Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project Newsletter

Summer 2020

Vol. 3

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is working in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) to restore habitat at the mouth of the Duckabush River. The project would reconnect the Duckabush River to adjacent wetlands by modifying local roads and

elevating Highway 101 onto a bridge. The bridge would span the entire valley where the Duckabush River meets the Hood Canal, recreating rare habitat important to native fish and wildlife. Because of the complexity of the site, project coordination is occurring with WSDOT, local tribes, Jefferson County, and others.

More project information can be found at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/duckabush>

## Project Design Update

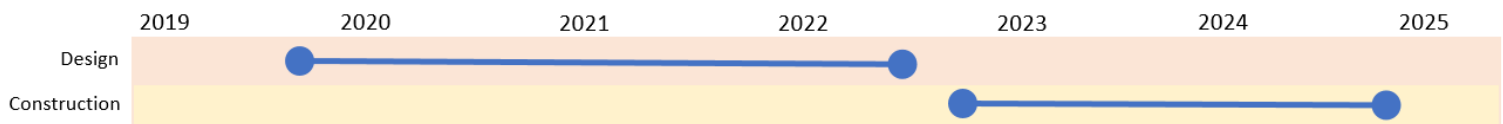
Design phase is underway with design completion expected in mid-2022. Primary design leads are WSDOT for the state highway elements and the Corps for the habitat restoration elements.

WSDOT released a bridge “type, size, and location” report in February 2020 showing the new US 101 parallel to and just upstream of the existing highway. The new bridge will be about 1,600 feet long and about 6 feet higher than the current

highway elevation and will include wider lanes and shoulders. It will also include new bridge approaches and a realigned intersection at Duckabush Road.

The Corps is working on design to remove the existing highway and the fill beneath it and reconnect historical river channels in the estuary.

Site surveys will continue throughout 2020. Project partners plan to share design updates with the public in early 2021 once design reaches the 35% level.



## Former Fire Station Demolition

To help deter crime and vandalism in the area, the former fire station was demolished in early June 2020. HCSEG purchased the Shorewood Road property in 2018 to make it available for future estuary restoration. The property will eventually be transferred to WDFW. The fire department relocated their storage to a less flood-prone location.



10/20/97



## Duckabush Estuary Cleanup Event – Last Weekend in June!

Come help us keep the Duckabush River looking beautiful! This event will bring community volunteers (you!) together to explore WDFW's estuary lands while picking up trash and making this gem sparkle. Trash bags will be provided to volunteers and dumpster made available in the large WDFW dirt parking lot.

**Who:** All ages and open to the public  
(pre-registration required)

**When:** Friday June 26th – Monday June 29th. Let us know when you can join, sign up for a shift when you pre-register with HCSEG.

**Where:** WDFW's Duckabush Wildlife Area.

**Why:** Trash in the Duckabush River Estuary has been accumulating due to its proximity to highway 101 and high tides that carry debris in. We need YOUR help to clean up this beautiful local estuary!

**What to bring:** Work gloves, sun protection, water and snacks.

**How:** Pre-registration is required. Online at: <https://www.pnwsalmoncenter.org/get-involved/volunteer/>  
Or contact Anna by email: [anna@pnwsalmoncenter.org](mailto:anna@pnwsalmoncenter.org), or call: 360-275-3575 X118.



## State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Compliance Completed

The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project was finalized in May 2020 concluding state environmental review of the proposed project.

The FSEIS includes:

- a summary of the 31 public comments received on the Draft SEIS with responses (Chapter 5)
- factual corrections to the Draft SEIS, and
- updated highway design information (Type, Size, Location Report; Appendix C)



This year-long effort included two public meetings at Brinnon School. Public participation at these events far exceeded expectations and demonstrate how much people care about the future of the Duckabush Estuary. Thank you to all of you who participated!

## More Information

We expect to send a newsletter with project updates approximately 3-4 times per year or as important topics arise. **If you have questions, comments, or ideas about the project you can send them to the project contacts listed below.** Thank you for being part of such an enthusiastic and engaged community.

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